

Application Serial No. 09/434,394
Attorney Docket No. 114596-20 4009
Amendment Dated October 11, 2006 - Request for Reconsideration of Action of July 18, 2006

CLAIMS

- 1 1. (previously presented) A computer, comprising:
 - 2 a binary translator programmed to translate at least a segment of a binary representation
 - 3 of a program from a first representation in a first instruction set architecture to a second
 - 4 representation in a second instruction set architecture, a sequence of side-effects in the second
 - 5 representation differing from a sequence of side-effects in the translated segment of the first
 - 6 representation, the second representation distinguishing individual memory loads that are
 - 7 believed to be directed to well-behaved memory from memory loads that are believed to be
 - 8 directed to non-well-behaved memory device(s);
- 9 instruction execution circuitry designed, while executing the second representation,
 - 10 to identify an individual memory-reference instruction, or an individual memory
 - 11 reference of an instruction, a side-effect arising from the memory reference having been
 - 12 reordered by the translator, the memory reference having been believed at translation time to be
 - 13 directed to well-behaved memory but that at execution time is found to reference a device with a
 - 14 valid memory address that cannot be guaranteed to be well-behaved, based at least in part on an
 - 15 annotation encoded in a segment descriptor, and
- 16 based in the distinguishing, to identify whether the difference in sequence of side-
- 17 effects may have a material effect on the execution of the program; and
- 18 circuitry and/or software designed to establish program state to a state equivalent to a
- 19 state that would have occurred in the execution of the first representation, and to resume
- 20 execution of the translated segment of the program in the first instruction set.

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1 2. (currently amended) A method, comprising the step of:
2 for memory references generated as part of executing a stream of instructions on a
3 computer, evaluating whether an individual memory reference of an instruction references a
4 device having a valid memory address but that cannot be guaranteed to be well-behaved, based at
5 least in part on an annotation encoded in a segment descriptor, a segment descriptor being data
6 for controlling physical address formation by designating a segment base address, a segment
7 length, and segment access control information.

3. (original) A method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
if the reference cannot be guaranteed to be well-behaved, re-executing the instruction in
an alternative execution mode.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:
while translating at least a segment of a binary representation of a program from a first
instruction set architecture to a second instruction set architecture to produce the stream of
instructions, annotating in the produced instructions memory loads that are believed to be
directed to well-behaved memory from memory loads that are believed to be directed to non-
well-behaved memory.

5. (original) A method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
for memory references generated as part of executing a stream of instructions on a
computer, evaluating whether an individual memory reference of an instruction has been
reordered relative to other side-effects in a manner that materially alters the execution of a
program of the memory reference.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
if the reference cannot be guaranteed to be well-behaved, rolling back the state of the
instruction stream to a prior state.

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7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein
the rolling back step is initiated when an exception occurs in an object program generated
by binary translation from a reference implementation source program.

8. (original) A method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:
resuming executing from the rolled back state, the resumed execution executing a precise
side-effect emulation of the reference implementation.

9. (original) A method of claim 2, wherein the device having a valid memory address
has an address in an I/O space of the computer.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising evaluating an
annotation embedded in the instruction to determine whether the reference to the device that
cannot be guaranteed to be well-behaved is to raise an exception.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
in circuitry embedded in address translation circuitry of the computer, evaluating whether
the reference to the device that cannot be guaranteed to be well-behaved is to raise an exception.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the segment descriptor is
stored in a segment register.

13. (original) A method of claim 2, further comprising forming the segment descriptor
by copying another segment descriptor, and altering the annotation.

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1 14. (currently amended) A computer, comprising:
2 instruction execution circuitry designed to evaluate, based at least in part on an
3 annotation encoded in a segment descriptor, a segment descriptor being data for controlling
4 physical address formation by designating a segment base address, a segment length, and
5 segment access control information, whether an individual memory-reference instruction, or an
6 individual memory reference of an instruction, references a device with a valid memory address
7 that cannot be guaranteed to be well-behaved.

15. (original) A computer of claim 14, further comprising:
binary translator software programmed to generate the memory-reference instruction.

16. (original) A computer of claim 15, wherein the binary translator is further
programmed to annotate the memory-reference instruction with an indication of whether the
memory-reference instruction is likely or unlikely to reference well-behaved memory.

17. (previously presented) The computer of claim 14, further comprising:
a translator programmed to translate at least a segment of a source program into an object
program, wherein a sequence of side-effects in the object program differs from a reference
sequence of side-effects in the source program; and
circuitry and/or software designed to intervene during an execution of the object program
on the computer to establish a program state equivalent to a state that would have occurred in the
reference sequence, and to resume execution of the program from the established state in an
execution mode that reflects the reference side-effect sequence.

18. (original) A computer of claim 14, wherein:
code in a preamble of a program unit embracing the memory-reference instruction
establishes a state of the instruction execution circuitry, the instruction execution circuitry

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designed to raise an exception based on an evaluation of both the state and the evaluation of the reference to the device.

19. (original) A computer of claim 14, further comprising circuitry to raise an exception based on an evaluation of both an annotation embedded in the instruction and the evaluation of the reference to the device.

20. (original) A computer of claim 14, further comprising circuitry in an address translation path to raise an exception of a computer based on the evaluation of the reference to the device.

21. (original) A computer of claim 14, further comprising circuitry to raise an exception based on an evaluation of both a segment descriptor and the evaluation of the reference to the device.

1 22. (currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:
2 while translating at least a segment of a binary representation of a program from a first
3 instruction set architecture to a second representation in a second instruction set architecture,
4 distinguishing individual memory loads that are believed to be directed to well-behaved memory
5 from memory loads that are believed to be directed to non-well-behaved memory device(s);
6 while executing the second representation, identifying a load that was believed at
7 translation time to be directed to well-behaved memory but that at execution time is found to be
8 directed to non-well-behaved memory, based at least in part on an annotation encoded in a
9 segment descriptor, and aborting the identified memory load, a segment descriptor being data for
10 controlling physical address formation by designating a segment base address, a segment length,
11 and segment access control information; and
12 based at least in part on the identifying, re-executing at least a portion of the translated
13 segment of the program in the first instruction set.

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23. (original) A method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

while executing the translation, detecting an ordering of side-effects that differs from the reference sequence of side-effects of the binary representation in the first instruction set architecture;

establishing the state of the translated program to a state equivalent to a state that would have occurred in the binary representation in the first instruction set architecture; and

resuming execution of the program from the established state in an execution mode that reflects the reference side-effect sequence.

24. (original) A method of claim 23, wherein the difference of ordering of side-effects includes a reordering of two side-effects relative to each other.

25. (original) A method of claim 23, wherein the difference of ordering of side-effects includes an elimination of a side-effect by the translating.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

annotating the second representation with an indication of the distinction between individual memory loads that are believed to be directed to well-behaved memory from memory loads that are believed to be directed to non-well-behaved memory.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:
executing code in a preamble of the second representation to establish a state of instruction execution circuitry, the instruction execution circuitry designed to raise an exception based on an evaluation of both the state and the identification of loads.

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28. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising evaluating an annotation embedded in the instruction of the identified load to determine whether to raise an exception.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of: in circuitry embedded in address translation circuitry, evaluating whether the instruction of the identified load is to raise an exception.

1 30. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
2 a binary translator programmed to translate at least a segment of a binary representation
3 of a program from a first instruction set architecture to a second representation in a second
4 instruction set architecture, distinguishing individual memory loads that are believed to be
5 directed to well-behaved memory from memory loads that are believed to be directed to non-
6 well-behaved memory; and
7 instruction execution circuitry designed to execute the translated program in the second
8 representation, and to identify, based at least in part on an annotation encoded in a segment
9 descriptor, a segment descriptor being data for controlling physical address formation by
10 designating a segment base address, a segment length, and segment access control information,
11 memory loads that were believed at translation time to be directed to well-behaved memory but
12 that at execution time are found to be directed to non-well-behaved memory, and to abort the
13 identified memory load.

31. (original) A apparatus of claim 30, further comprising:
hardware designed to re-execute at least a portion of the translated segment of the
program in the first instruction set.

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32. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein:

the binary translator is further programmed to produce a sequence of side-effects in the second representation differing from a sequence of side-effects in the translated segment of the first representation; and

the instruction execution circuitry is further designed to identify cases during execution of the second representation in which the difference in sequence of side-effects may have a material effect on the execution of the program, to establish program state to a state equivalent to a state that would have occurred in the execution of the first representation, and to resume execution of the program from the established state in an execution mode that reflects the side-effect sequence of the first representation.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the difference of sequence of side-effects includes a reordering of two side-effects relative to each other.

34. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the difference of sequence of side-effects includes an elimination of a side-effect by the translating.

35. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising the step of: annotating the second representation with an indication of the distinction between individual memory loads that are believed to be directed to well-behaved memory from memory loads that are believed to be directed to non-well-behaved memory.

36. (original) A apparatus of claim 30, wherein the device having a valid memory address has an address in an I/O space of a computer.

37. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising evaluating an annotation embedded in the instruction of the identified load to determine whether to raise an exception.

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38. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising:
in circuitry embedded in address translation circuitry for the instruction execution
circuitry, evaluating whether the instruction of the identified load is to raise an exception.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising circuitry to
raise an exception based on an evaluation of both a segment descriptor and the evaluation of the
reference to non-well-behaved memory.

1 40. (previously presented) A method, comprising the steps of:
2 translating at least a segment of a source program into an object program, the source
3 program instructing a reference execution with a reference sequence of side-effects, the object
4 program instructing an execution in which the sequence of side-effects differs from the reference
5 sequence;
6 during an execution of the object program on a computer, detecting a side-effect about to
7 be committed to processor state in which the differing side-effect sequence may have a material
8 effect on the execution of the program, and aborting the side-effect;
9 establishing a program state equivalent to a state that would have occurred in the
10 reference execution; and
11 resuming execution of the program from the established state in an execution mode that
12 reflects the reference side-effect sequence.

41. (original) A method of claim 40, wherein the source program is coded in a first
instruction set architecture, and the object program is coded in a second instruction set
architecture.

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42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising the steps of:
evaluating, based at least in part on an annotation encoded in a segment descriptor,
whether an individual memory reference of an instruction initiated by execution of the object
program references a device having a valid memory address but that cannot be guaranteed to be
well-behaved; and
initiating the establishing step based at least in part on the evaluating.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:
annotating the object program with an indication of a distinction between individual
memory references that are believed to be directed to well-behaved memory from memory
references that are believed to be directed to non-well-behaved memory.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:
executing code in a preamble of the object program to establish a state of instruction
execution circuitry, the instruction execution circuitry designed to raise an exception based on an
evaluation of both the state and the evaluation of individual memory references.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising evaluating an
annotation embedded in the instruction of the individual side-effect to determine whether to raise
an exception.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:
in circuitry embedded in address translation circuitry of the computer, evaluating whether
the instruction of the individual side-effect is to raise an exception.

47. (original) A method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:
raising an exception based on an evaluation of both a segment descriptor and the
evaluation of the side-effect.

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48. (original) A method of claim 41, further comprising:
evaluating an annotation encoded in a segment descriptor to determine whether the reference to the non-well-behaved device is to raise an exception.

49. (original) A method of claim 41, further comprising forming the segment descriptor by copying another segment descriptor, and altering the annotation.

50. (original) A method of claim 41, further comprising copying into the formed segment descriptor a variable indicating an assumed sensitivity of the translation to alteration of the sequence of side-effects.

51. (original) A method of claim 41, wherein the difference of ordering of side-effects includes a reordering of two side-effects relative to each other.

52. (original) A method of claim 41, wherein:
the establishing step is initiated when an exception occurs in the object program.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:
resuming executing from the established state, the resumed execution executing a precise side-effect emulation of the reference execution.

54. (original) A method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:
using a descriptor generated during the translation to establish a pre-exception reference state.

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1 55. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:
2 a binary translator programmed to translate at least segment of a program from a first
3 representation in a first instruction set architecture to a second representation in a second
4 instruction set architecture, a sequence of side-effects in the second representation differing from
5 a sequence of side-effects in the translated segment of the first representation; and
6 instruction execution circuitry and/or software designed to
7 identify cases during execution of the second representation in which the
8 difference in sequence of side-effects may have a material effect on the execution of the
9 program, before committing the side-effect to processor state, and aborting the side-effect; and
10 to establish a program state equivalent to a state that would have occurred in the
11 execution of the first representation, and to resume execution of the program from the
12 established state in an execution mode that reflects the side-effect sequence of the first
13 representation.

56. (original) A apparatus of claim 55, further comprising:
 annotating the second representation with an indication of the distinction between
 individual memory loads that are believed to be directed to well-behaved memory from memory
 loads that are believed to be directed to non-well-behaved memory.

57. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein:
 the instruction execution circuitry is designed to evaluate an annotation embedded in the
 instruction of the identified load to determine whether to raise an exception.

58. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 56, further comprising:
 in circuitry embedded in address translation circuitry for the instruction execution
 circuitry, evaluating whether the instruction of the identified load is to raise an exception.

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59. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 56, further comprising:
circuitry to evaluate an annotation encoded in a segment descriptor to determine whether
a reference to a device in non-well-behaved memory is to raise an exception.

60. (cancelled)

61. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the difference of
sequence of side-effects includes a reordering of two side-effects relative to each other.

62. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the difference of
sequence of side-effects includes an elimination of a side-effect .

63. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the difference of
sequence of side effects results from combining two side-effects in the binary translator.

64. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein:
the establishing is initiated when an exception occurs in the second representation.

65. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein:
the resumed execution executes a precise side-effect emulation of the first representation.

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